



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### NEW AMENDMENT ISSUED TO ALASKA GAME REGULATIONS

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross L. Leffler announced today that an amendment to the Alaska hunting regulations has been issued which broadens the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the big game resources of Alaska from over-hunting.

The new amendment will permit the Service, through its Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, to take prompt action to close temporarily an open season in any designated area and on any designated species of big game animals where adverse conditions threaten to bring about an excessive kill of these animals.

Last year somewhat similar authority was included in the regulations as a protective measure for caribou. In 1955 excessive killing had resulted because large numbers of these animals had concentrated near a highway during their annual migration.

Under the new amendment, the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will be responsible for ascertaining the facts concerning the existence of any emergency condition which may require the closing of the season. The Director is required to announce such closures through publication in the Federal Register and by suitable posting in the area or areas where the emergency exists.

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